

as she could certainly not have gone through it. In some of the enclosures there are hedges of *Thuja*, with a wire-netting fence two feet high in front of them, to prevent the Geese getting underneath. The female finally decided to make her nest under one of these hedges. To get there she was seen to jump upon this two-foot-high fence, balance herself on the thin top, and plunge into the hedge. She scraped a little round depression in the soil under the evergreens, and then laid her eggs, accomplishing her jumping-feat each time that she wanted to go in or out of her nest. Unfortunately she did not care to sit, so that we had to put her eggs under a bantam hen: I am sorry to say, however, that they did not hatch, but proved to be unfertile. The eggs are yellowish white, and rather more pointed at one end than the other.

Gooilust, s'Graveland,  
30th October, 1903.

V.—*The Linnean Motacilla stapazina identified and restored to use.* By T. SALVADORI, H.M.B.O.U.

LOOKING through the pages of the recently published vol. iv. of the 'Hand-list of the Genera and Species of Birds,' by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe, I happened to stop at the genus *Savicola*. I was rather surprised to find that no species bore the familiar Linnean name *stapazina*, which is (p. 179) relegated to the synonyms of *Savicola rufa* (Steph.). That a Linnean name should stand as a synonym of one published more than fifty years later seems to be quite against the rules of nomenclature!

I know that the name *stapazina* has been too often misunderstood, so that many mistakes have been made by ornithologists, who have applied the term to two different species—the Black-eared Wheatear (*Savicola albicollis* Vieill. = *S. aurita* Temm.) and the Russet Wheatear, which has the throat black, whereas the former has it white. Should the difficulty of identifying Linné's *Motacilla stapazina* be insuperable, I quite understand that we ought to give up

using his name, but that is not the case. *Motacilla stapazina* is certainly the white-throated bird or Black-eared Wheatear.

Linne's description is as follows:—"M[otacilla] ferruginea, *area oculorum alis caudaque fuscis*, rectricibus extimis latere albis. *Habitat* in Hispania, Italia."

The first reference given by Linné is *Ænanthe altera* Aldr. orn. 2, p. 763; and turning to Aldrovandi we find (*l. c.*), besides a good description\*, an unmistakable figure of the Black-eared Wheatear with the *white* throat.

What do we want more than this to identify *Motacilla stapazina* with the Black-eared Wheatear? Therefore *Saxicola stapazina* (Linn.) is the proper name of the species which has been named *Vitiflora rufa* by Stephens, *Ænanthe albicollis* by Vieillot, *Saxicola aurita* by Temminck, and *Sylvia rufescens* by Savi.

Mr. Dresser, in his 'Birds of Europe' (vol. ii. pp. 203, 207), has already shown that the Black-eared Wheatear should stand as *S. stapazina*, but as regards the Russet Wheatear with black throat I think that the name *Saxicola rufa* (C. L. Brehm, 1831) used by him is not the proper one, the same name having been employed in 1818 by Stephens for the Black-eared Wheatear †. This was the reason why, in 1886, in my "Elenco degli uccelli Italiani" (Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. (2) iii. p. 116), I proposed for the Western Russet Wheatear the name of *Saxicola occidentalis*.

Dr. Sharpe, in the volume already quoted, has made several mistakes as regards the names and synonymy of the two species under consideration.

Failing to recognise that the Linnean name *stapazina* belonged to the Black-eared Wheatear, which he calls *S. albicollis* (Vieill.), he has wrongly included *stapazina* (Linn.)

\* "... capite, collo, dorso, alarum pennis minoribus, pectore et ventre ex ruffo flavescens (sic), dorso intensius, pectore remissius, oculis nigris, retro quos macula est oblonga etiam nigra, figura quodammodo semi-lunari . . ."

† "V[itiflora] ferruginea, alis fuscis, *area oculorum caudaque nigris*, rectricibus extimis latere albis." (. . . *space round the eyes and the tail black, and the sides of the outer tail-feathers white.*)

among the synonyms of the Russet or Western Black-throated Wheatear. Besides this, he makes the mistake of using for this species the name *S. rufa* of Stephens, which belongs to the Black-eared Wheatear. Next to *M. stapazina* Linn., Dr. Sharpe puts in the synonymy *S. occidentalis* Salvad., which I still believe to be the proper name of the Western Russet Wheatear. Finally, among the synonyms of his *Saxicola rufa* (= *occidentalis* Salvad.), Dr. Sharpe puts *Saxicola catarine* Whitaker (*Ibis*, 1898, p. 624), which, whatever it may be, is a form of the Black-eared Wheatear, and not of the Russet Wheatear.

Mr. Dresser, in his recently published 'Manual of Palaearctic Birds,' uses for the Russet Wheatear the name *Saxicola stapazina*, attributing it to Vieillot, and leaving us ignorant of the fact that it is a name of Linné's, who gave it to the Black-eared Wheatear, which Mr. Dresser calls by Vieillot's name, "*Saxicola albicollis*." I suppose that Mr. Dresser decided to do this in order to avoid the apparent difficulties involved in the use of Linné's name, but I do not think that the law of priority, especially as regards Linné's names, can be so freely ignored.

I add the principal references to the two species of which I have been speaking, and from these we can easily understand the history of their nomenclature.

#### 1. SAXICOLA STAPAZINA (Linn.).

*Ænanthe altera* Aldr. Orn. ii. p. 763 (cum fig. bona) (1645).

*The Red or Russet-coloured Wheat-Ear* (hen), Edw. Nat. Hist. i. p. 31, pl. 31 (fig. posterior) (1743).

*Ænanthe fulva*, part., Edw. op. cit. ii. p. 126. n. 31 (1747).

*Vitiflora rufescens* Briss. Orn. iii. p. 457, pl. xxv. fig. 4 (optima) (1760).

*Vitiflora rufa*, part., Briss. tom. cit. p. 459 (femina) (1760).

*Motacilla stapazina* Linn. S. N. i. p. 331. n. 14 (1766) (ex Aldrovandi); Gm. S. N. i. 2, p. 966. n. 14 (1788).

*Sylvia stapazina*, part., Lath. Ind. Orn. ii. p. 530. n. 80 (femina) (1790); Savi, Orn. Tosc. ii. p. 206 (part.) (1831).

*Sylvia stapazina*  $\beta$  Lath. Ind. Orn. ii. p. 530 (1790).

*Vitiflora rufa* Steph. Gen. Zool. x. 2, p. 569 (1817).

*Enanthe albicollis* Vieill. N. D. xxi. p. 424 (1818).

*Saxicola aurita* Temm. Man. d'Orn. i. p. 241 (1820).

*Sylvia albicollis* Vieill. Enc. Méth. ii. p. 485 (1823).

*Sylvia rufescens* Savi, Orn. Tosc. i. p. 223 (1827).

*Saxicola stapazina* Dress. B. of Eur. ii. p. 203, pl. xxiii. (1874).

*Saxicola albicollis* Dress. Man. Pal. B. p. 37 (1902); Sharpe, Hand-l. iv. p. 176. n. 8 (1903).

## 2. *SAXICOLA OCCIDENTALIS* Salvad.

*The Red or Russet-coloured Wheat-Ear* (cock), Edw. Nat. Hist. i. p. 31, pl. 31 (fig. anterior) (1743).

*Enanthe fulva*, part., Edw. op. cit. ii. p. 126. n. 31 (1747).

*Vitiflora rufa*, part., Briss. Orn. iii. p. 459 (mas) (1760).

*Sylvia stapazina*, part., Lath. Ind. Orn. ii. p. 530. n. 8 (mas) (1790); Vieill. Enc. Méth. ii. p. 485, pl. 118. fig. 3 (1823); Savi, Orn. Tosc. i. p. 225 (1827), ii. p. 206 (part.) (1831).

*Enanthe stapazina* Vieill. (nec Linn.) N. D. xxi. p. 425 (1818).

*Saxicola stapazina* Temm. (nec Linn.) Man. d'Orn. i. p. 239 (1820); Dress. Man. Pal. B. pt. i. p. 36 (1902, nec B. of Eur. 1874).

*Vitiflora rufa* C. L. Brehm (nec Steph.), Vög. Deutschl. p. 406 (1831).

*Saxicola rufa* Dress. (nec Steph.) B. of Eur. ii. p. 207, pls. xxiv., xxv. fig. 2 (1874); Sharpe, Hand-l. iv. p. 179. n. 43 (1903).

*Saxicola occidentalis* Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. (2) iii. p. 116 (1886).

*Saxicola melanoleuca occidentalis* Arrig. Atl. Orn. pp. 172, 173, fig. capitis (1902).